Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the laser device shown in Fig. 8, the ridge portions 3 and 28 are shaped so that width of the upper edge of each is no more than 50% of the width of the lower edge thereof. The injection of currents into the active layers 3 and 24 is constrained by the narrowing of the width of the upper edge, the light-generating regions of the active layers 3 and 24 is limited to the central portions under the ridge portions 5 and 28, and the surface area of the portions of the active layers 3 and 24 that produce the high gain is reduced. This is because it is considered in the prior art that absorption by the active layers 3 and 24 can be made more likely to occur and self-sustained pulsation can be made more likely to occur by reducing the surface area of the portions in which gain is high and increasing the surface area of portions in which ~~adsorption~~ absorption occurs. And this is because it is easy to form the ridge portions 5 and 28 so that the width of the upper edges thereof are narrow by using wet etching.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the above-described laser device of Fig. 1, the cross-sectional surface of each of the ridge portions 28C and 28D is described as having a shape such that the

width of the upper edge is less than the width of the lower edge and side edges fall so as to widen outward from the upper edge to the lower edge (see Fig. 3(a)), or a shape such that the width of the upper edge is equal to the width of the lower edge and the side edges are substantially perpendicular from the upper edge side towards the lower edge side. The description also states that the output angle in which self-sustained pulsation occurs is broadened by ensuring that the width of the upper edge is at least 70% but no more than 100% of the width of the lower edge. However, as shown in Fig. 3(b), this cross-section surface can also have a shape such that the width of the upper edge is less than the width of the lower edge and each side edge has an upper side edge portion U which descends substantially perpendicularly from the upper edge towards the lower edge and a lower side edge portion D that extends from the upper edge portion U toward the lower edge, where the width of the upper edge is at least 70% but less than 100% of the width of the lower edge. Similarly, as shown in Fig. 3(c), the cross-sectional surface could have a shape such that the width of the upper edge is less than the width of the lower edge, and each side edge has an upper side edge portion U that descends in a manner that narrows inward from the upper edge towards the lower side edge and a lower edge portion D that extend from that upper edge portion to the lower edge, where the minimum width is at least 70% but less than 100% of the width of the lower edge. Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 3(d), the cross-sectional surface could have a shape such that the width of the upper edge is greater than the width of the lower edge,

and each side edge descends in a manner that narrows inward from the upper edge towards the lower edge, where the minimum width of the ~~upper edge~~ narrowest portion is at least 70% but less than 100% of the width of the lower edge. In addition, as shown in Fig. 3(e), the cross-sectional surface could have a shape such that the width of the upper edge is greater than the width of the lower edge, and each side edge has an upper side edge portion U that descends in a manner that narrows inward from the upper edge towards the lower edge and a lower side edge portion D that extends from that upper edge portion to the lower edge, where the minimum width is at least70% but less than 100% of the width of the lower edge. As shown in Fig. 3(f), this cross-sectional surface could also have a shape such that the width of the upper edge is equal to the width of the lower edge, and each side edge has an upper side edge portion U that descends in a manner that narrows inward from the upper edge towards the lower edge and a lower side edge portion D that extends from that upper edge portion to the lower edge, where the minimum width is at least 70% but less than 100% of the width of the lower edge. In each of the above cases, favorable results can be obtained when the width of the lower edge is at least 3.0 μm; preferably at least 3.0 μm but no more than 5.0 μm. In addition, in each of the above case, favorable results can be obtained when the angle between the upper edge portion U of each of the ridge portions 28C and 28D and the lower edge is at least 70° but no more than 100 °, from the viewpoint of the fabrication method that will be described below.